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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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WHAT IF™ INVISIBLE GIRL OF THE Fantastic Four® MARRIED THE SUB-MARINER™

WAIT! IF MY HUSBAND DIES--

--A KINGDOM DIES WITH HIM!

THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN DEMANDING!

WHAT IF?

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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A STUNNING SAGA OF AN ALTERNATE REALITY!

WHAT IF... SUB-MARINER HAD MARRIED the INVISIBLE GIRL?

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YOU'LL CONQUER EARTH ONLY OVER OUR DEAD BODIES, SKRULL!
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT MY MASTERS SENT ME TO ARRANGE, RICHARDS!
I HATE TO DISAPPOINT THEM, BUT LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU FARE AGAINST A POWER-BLOW FROM A HUMAN SLEDGE-HAMMER!
YOU ARE FAST, MISTER FANTASTIC--

--BUT NOT AS FAST AS ONE WHO HAS THE POWER TO STRETCH HIS ARM VAST, UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCES!
AND THE STRENGTH TO PLUCK A BOULDER FROM YONDER CLIFF-FACE--

--TO USE AS A SHIELD AGAINST YOUR HAMMERING HAND!
WHROOM!
ARGGH!
THOUGH YOU FORMED YOUR ARM INTO THE SHAPE OF A MALLET, IT IS STILL ONLY FLESH AND BLOOD! A PITY, FOR NOW YOU CAN ONLY STAND HELPLESS WHILE I SMASH YOU!

OH, NO YA DON'T, POINTY-EARS!
THE THING!

KEE-RECT! IF THERE'S GONNA BE ANY SMASHIN' DONE, I'M THE GUY WHAT'S GONNA DO IT!
FIRST YER LITTLE ROCK GARDEN HERE, THEN YOU!
KROM!

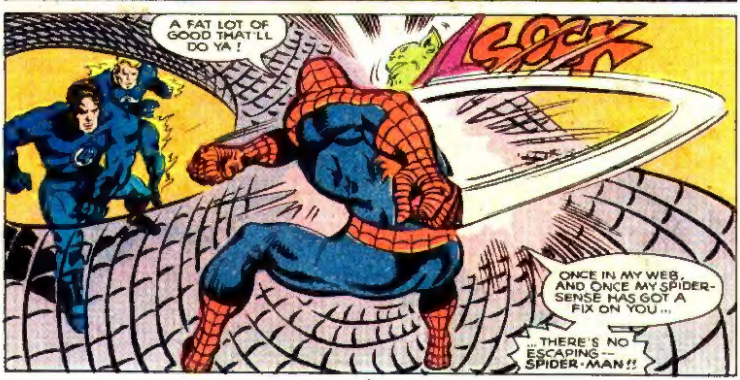
BOORISH BRAGGART! YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WE SKRULLS HAVE THE POWER TO ALTER OUR BODIES TO ANY SHAPE WE CHOOSE!

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

EXACTLY, REED RICHARDS!
I HAVE DRIVEN A WEDGE INTO YOUR RANKS! CUT OFF FROM EACH OTHER, YOU CAN ONLY FLEE IN DESPAIR! BUT I WILL FIND YOU -- AND SLAY YOU -- ONE-BY-ONE!

STRANGE, THOUGH, THAT I HAVE NOT YET ENCOUNTERED THE FINAL MEMBER OF YOUR CURSED FOURSOME!
DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH, SKRULLSY--

--'CAUSE THAT MISSING FOURTH MEMBER HAS BEEN WAITING IN RESERVE! WAITING FOR YOU!
NO PARKING
WHUMP
SOME MANNER OF NET, ENSNARING, ENTANGLING ME! I MUST ADOPT SUE STORM'S INVISIBILITY THAT I MAY REMAIN UNSEEN UNTIL I FREE MYSELF!


A FAT LOT OF GOOD THAT'LL DO YA!
SOCK
ONCE IN MY WEB, AND ONCE MY SPIDER-SENSE HAS GOT A FIX ON YOU...
...THERE'S NO ESCAPING -- SPIDER-MAN!!

WELL, TEAMMATES, SHALL WE CALL IT A WRAP? THE SUPER-SKRULL CAN GRUNT AND GROAN, BUT HE WON'T BREAK OUT OF THIS SUPER-ELASTIC, SUPER-STRONG, FLAME-PROOF WEBBING THAT REED HELPED ME DEVISE!
OF COURSE, HE CAN STILL TURN INVISIBLE -- TO HIDE HIS EMBARASSMENT!
YOU SURE TOOK YOUR SWEET TIME TRAPPING HIM, DIDN'T YOU, WALL-CRAWLER?
Huh? WHAT'S THAT CRACK SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT MEANS YOU ACTED LIKE A LONER, RATHER THAN AS PART OF THE F.F.!
AND YOU CALL THE WAY YOU THREE TACKLED THE SKRULL UNITY?!
REED, TELL THIS HOTSHOT TO GET OFF MY BACK! I'VE HAD IT WITH HIM RIDING ME!
I'M SORRY, PETER, BUT JOHNNY'S RIGHT! SINCE YOU REPLACED THE INVISIBLE GIRL AS OUR FOURTH MEMBER, YOU'VE PLACED INDEPENDENCE BEFORE TEAMWORK!
WHA-A-A-AT?!
LET US PAUSE A MOMENT IN OUR RECALL, AS THE GARGOYLE-LIKE THING ATTEMPTS TO COOL HIS PARTNERS' PASSIONS, TO EXAMINE WHAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS BY NOW.
THE FANTASTIC FOUR HERE ASSEMBLED ARE NOT THE HEROES OF YOUR WORLD, BUT OF AN ALTERNATE REALITY, EXISTING ALONGSIDE YOUR OWN...
IN THIS CASE, IT IS AN ALTERNATE EARTH WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE.

Ah, I SEE THE LIGHT OF MEMORY REKINDLING IN YOUR EYES IMAGES OF THAT NOW-LEGENDARY FORMATION OF THE FANTASTIC FIVE WITH THE RECRUITMENT OF PETER PARKER, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. *
*AS DEPICTED IN THE NOW-CLASSIC WHAT IF? #1. --D&M.
"AN ADDITION THAT GAVE THE F.F. OF THIS ALTERNATE EARTH ADDED POWER DURING THEIR EPIC BATTLES WITH THE RED GHOST ON THE MOON.
"AND AGAINST THE REGAL NAMOR OF ATLANTIS, THE SUB-MARINER, BOTH IN THE BAXTER BUILDING...
"... AND BENEATH THE OCEAN WAVES, WHEN NAMOR KIDNAPPED SUSAN STORM, THE BELOVED OF REED RICHARDS!
"BUT, WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT NAMOR'S ACTIONS HAD BEEN MANIPULATED BY THE MACABRE PUPPET MASTER--
"--ANIMOSITY WAS REPLACED, IN SUSAN STORM'S MIND AT LEAST, BY... LOVE.
WITH SPIDER-MAN IN THE F.F. YOU DON'T NEED ME! I-I'M SORRY, REED, BUT I CHOOSE TO GO WITH NAMOR!
NOW, LOOK-- IT WASN'T MY FAULT SUE DECIDED TO STAY WITH FISH-FACE, LEADER-MAN! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ALWAYS TOLD HER TO STAY BEHIND WHEN THERE WAS FIGHTING TO BE DONE-- OUT OF DANGER!
IF I ECLIPSED THE INVISIBLE GIRL, IT WAS ON YOUR ORDERS!

BUT THAT HASN'T STOPPED YOU FROM RESENTING ME FOR IT!

SPIDER-MAN, I TOLD YOU TO LET BEN HANDLE THE MAD THINKER'S AWEOME ANDROID! IF SUE WERE HERE--!

PARKER, PHYSICAL MIGHT WON'T STOP DOCTOR DOOM!

SUE'S FORCE FIELD WOULD'VE CONTAINED HIS POWER, ALLOWING ME TO--!

THUS, THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THIS FANTASTIC FOUR FINDS HIS EVERY ACTION QUESTIONED.

THE KID'S RIGHT, STRETCH! YOU HAVE BEEN COMIN' DOWN HARD ON HIM SINCE SUZY SPLIT!

THAT'S BULL, BEN! SPIDER-MAN'S JUST A MALCONTENT!

THAT CUTS IT, STORM! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LOUDMOUTH!

--BUT YOU'VE FINALLY POPPED-OFF ONCE TOO OFTEN! I DON'T NEED ALL THIS GRIEF!

RRIPPP

SO YOU CAN TAKE MY NAME OFF THE ROSTER, TAKE BACK MY NUMBER, AND TAKE YOUR TEAM AND SHOVE IT!

FROM NOW ON, WHERE SPIDER-MAN SWINGS--

--HE SWINGS ALONE!

CONGRATULATIONS, PARTNERS.

NOW WE GOTTA CHANGE OUR NAME TO THE "FANTASTIC THREE"!

THAT'S ENOUGH, BEN! I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN MY ACTIONS TO YOU ...OR ANYONE!

I'M STILL THE LEADER OF THIS TRIO, AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, MAYBE YOU SHOULD JOIN SPIDER-MAN!

NOT EVEN I, THE WATCHER, CAN SAY WHAT GOES ON WITHIN A MAN'S MIND OR HEART... ESPECIALLY SO COMPLEX A MAN AS REED RICHARDS, LEADER OF THIS EARTH'S CRISIS-RIDDEN FANTASTIC FOUR.

SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT HIS INTELLECT HAS BEEN OVERCOME BY HIS EMOTIONS. JUDICIOUSNESS HAS BEEN REPLACED BY JEALOUSY.

THAT WHICH HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO ERASE FROM HIS MIND, HAD FILLED HIS CONSCIOUSNESS EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY.

"HE HAS LOST THE ONLY WOMAN HE EVER LOVED, SUSAN STORM, TO A MAN OF ANOTHER RACE. TO NAMOR, THE FIRST, LORD OF ATLANTIS...

"... HE WHO HAS BEEN CALLED -- THE SAVAGE SUB-MARINER!

HAIL NAMOR!

HAIL SUSAN!

IT HAS BEEN NEARLY A YEAR SINCE YOU LAST SET EYES ON THE SURFACE WORLD YOU GAVE UP TO MARRY ME, SUSAN, MY BELOVED. I HOPE YOU HARBOR NO REGRETS?

HOW COULD I, NAMOR? YOU'VE BEEN A MORE ATTENTIVE HUSBAND THAN ANY WOMAN HAS A RIGHT TO ASK--

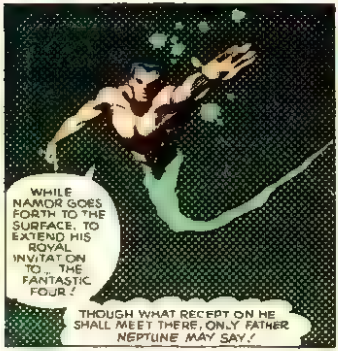
--AND THESE PAST MONTHS MY THOUGHTS HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED WITH THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF... OUR CHILD!

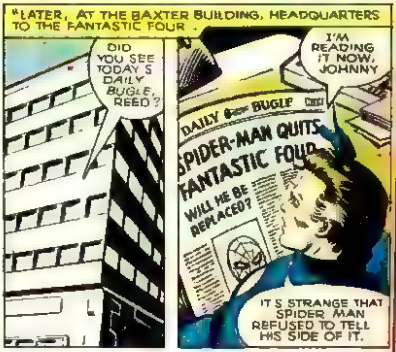
CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

I'D LIKE THAT BIRTH TO SIGNAL A HEALING OF OLD WOUNDS, TO HERALD A TIME OF PEACE
TELL ME, NAMOR MY LOVE, IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

SUSAN I...

NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT, GIRL. BUT YOU ARE FIT TO BE MY QUEEN! IT SHALL BE AS YOU SAY! SEA AND SURFACE BOTH SHALL REJOICE AT THE BIRTH OF MY HEIR!
NOW SUMMON YOUR MID WIVES SUSAN! REST!


WHILE NAMOR GOES FORTH TO THE SURFACE, TO EXTEND HIS ROYAL INVITATION TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
THOUGH WHAT RECEPTION HE SHALL MEET THERE, ONLY FATHER NEPTUNE MAY SAY!


*LATER, AT THE BAXTER BUILDING, HEADQUARTERS TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
DID YOU SEE TODAY'S DAILY BUGLE, REED?
I'M READING IT NOW, JOHNNY
DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN QUITS FANTASTIC FOUR
WILL HE BE REPLACED?
IT'S STRANGE THAT SPIDER MAN REFUSED TO TELL HIS SIDE OF IT.

NAH! THAT PARKER PUNK'LL PROBABLY WRITE A BOOK ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES WITH THE F.F.!
A BOOK THE THING'LL PROBABLY TRY TO READ, ONCE HE LEARNS TO SPELL!

SHEESH! SUDDENLY IT'S LIKE A SAUNA IN HERE!
GETTIN' HARD TO CONCENTRATE!

YEEOWWW!
SOMEBODY'S TRYIN' TA GIVE ME A HOT SEAT!

AN' I GOT ME A GOOD IDEA WHO!
KRUMPH

YOU FLAMIN' FIG-HEAD! IT WAS YOU, BLOWIN' HOT AIR THROUGH THE AIR-CONDITIONIN' VENT, WASN'T IT?

THE DAILY GLOBE BUGLE

SPIDER-MAN QUITS FANTASTIC FOUR

WILL HE BE REPLACED?

DIDJA FIGURE THAT OUT ALL BY YOURSELF, GRUESOME? OR DID SOMEBONE HELP YOU?

WHY, YOU -! AW, NUTS! A PUNK LIKE YOU AIN'T WORTH WASTIN' MY ANGER ON!

FORGET IT, FROG-FACE! IT WAS A JOKE, Y'KNOW?

J O K E ?

RATS! I TRIED TO PUT A LITTLE LIFE INTO THIS MORGUE, BUT WHAT'S THE USE! IT'S ALL NAMOR'S FAULT, FOR STEALING SUE!

HEY! MAYBE NAMOR HYPNOTIZED SUE INTO MARRYING HIM?!

THAT'S NUTS! SUZY KNEW WHAT SHE WAS DOIN'!

AN' REED'S GOT NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN IF HE WAS TOO PANTYWASTED TO FIGHT FOR HIS WOMAN! HEY--!

DON'T YOU EVER DARE SAY THAT AGAIN, BEN! NOT EVER!

YOU SHOULDN'TA DONE THAT STRETCH, CAUSE IT WAS ALL I WUZ WAITIN FOR!

YOU BEEN CRYIN' IN YER BEER FOR MONTHS, TAKIN' YER GRIEF OVER LOSIN SUZY OUT ON EVERYBODY!

BUT ME, I AIN'T NO PUNCHIN BAG!

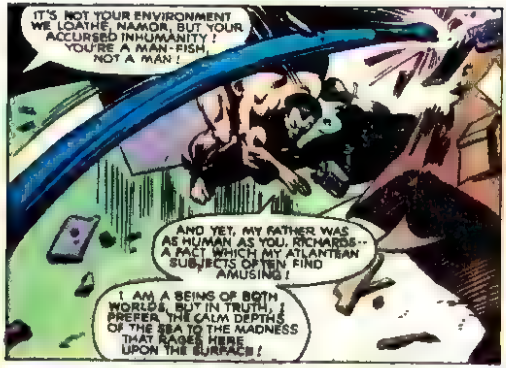
YA HIT THE *TRUTH*, FELLA--

ROAR

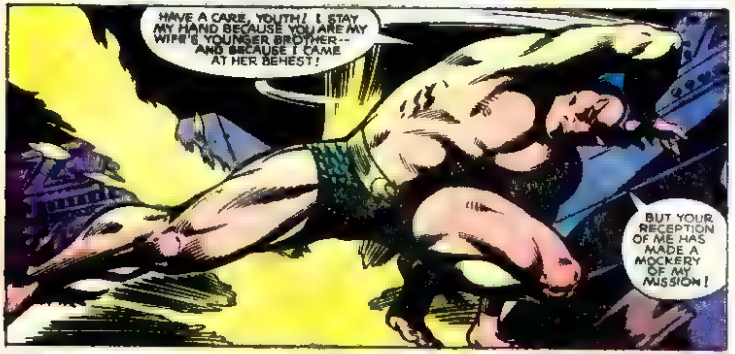
AN' THERE'S NO TELL IN' WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO YA!

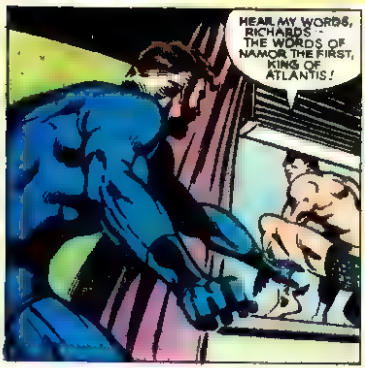
THE FF'S ALL YOURS, STRETCH! I QUIT!
YOU WANT ME TO STOP HIM REED?
NO, JOHNNY! LET HIM GO!
SO THAT'S IT! THE MIGHTY FF, KAPUT NOT WITH A BANG, BUT A WHIMPER!
SUDDENLY I CAN BREATHE EASY AGAIN, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS!
NOW MAYBE ALICIA AN ME CAN FINALLY GET HITCHED!
TAXI
* BUT, AS BENJAMIN GRIMM DEPARTS, HE FAILS TO NOTICE A FLYING FIGURE HIGH ABOVE HIM.
* A FIGURE BORNE ON TINY ANKLE-WINGS, WHOSE DESTINATION IS THE BAXTER BUILDING!
UH, REED? I HATE TO BE THE BEARER OF MORE BAD NEWS
-BUT WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
THE SUB-MARINER!
NAMOR GREETS YOU, BROTHER IN-LAW, AND BRINGS YOU FOND REMEMBRANCES FROM HIS WIFE, YOUR SISTER SUSAN!
I COME TO EXTEND AN INVITATION, INVITING YOU BOTH TO COME TO FAIR ATLANTIS
-FOR A CELEBRATION AS GLORIOUS AS ANY EVER HELD ABOVE THE WAVES OR BELOW THEM!

YOU MOCKING, SEA SPAWNED SCUM! COMING FROM YOUR MISBEGOTTEN LIPS, EVEN SUE'S NAME SOUNDS OBSCENE!
SO! I THOUGHT YOU GAVE UP THE WOMAN YOU HELD DEAR FOR SO LONG TOO EASILY RICHARDS! LOSING SUSAN TO ME GALLS YOU, DOESN'T IT?
I NEVER LOST SUE, FISH MAN! I LET HER GO--
-- HOPING TO SAVE THE SURFACE-WORLD FROM YOUR MURDEROUS MARAUDING!
LIAR! SUSAN CHOSE FREELY BETWEEN YOUR ARROGANCE AND MY LOVE! YOUR INSENSITIVITY TO HER NEEDS DROVE HER FROM YOU!
AND, WHERE YOU WOULD HAVE OFFERED HER ONLY SUBSERVIENCE, A PLACE IN THE SHADOWS, A SECONDARY ROLE -- I HAVE MADE HER A QUEEN!
NOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S LYING, MISTER! SUE WOULD NEVER HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE IN YOUR STINKING FISH-WORLD -
-- UNLESS SHE FELT SHE WERE DOING IT FOR THE GOOD OF EARTH!
MINDLESS ADOLESCENT! YOU THINK WITH YOUR INSTINCTS INSTEAD OF YOUR INTELLECT! BUT FIRE AND WATER WERE EVER AT ODDS!


IT'S NOT YOUR ENVIRONMENT WE LOATHE, NAMOR, BUT YOUR ACCURSED INHUMANITY! YOU'RE A MAN-FISH, NOT A MAN!
AND YET, MY FATHER WAS AS HUMAN AS YOU, RICHARDS-- A FACT WHICH MY ATLANTEAN SUBJECTS OFTEN FIND AMUSING!
I AM A BEING OF BOTH WORLDS, BUT IN TRUTH, I PREFER THE CALM DEPTHS OF THE SEA TO THE MADNESS THAT RAGES HERE UPON THE SURFACE!

THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK THERE TO STAY?!
THE FF WERE DOING FINE UNTIL YOU CAME INTO THE PICTURE!


HAVE A CARE, YOUTH! I STAY MY HAND BECAUSE YOU ARE MY WIFE'S YOUNGER BROTHER-- AND BECAUSE I CAME AT HER BEHEST!
BUT YOUR RECEPTION OF ME HAS MADE A MOCKERY OF MY MISSION!


HEAR MY WORDS, RICHARDS-- THE WORDS OF NAMOR THE FIRST, KING OF ATLANTIS!

I CAME IN PEACE, AND IN PEACE DO I DEPART!
BUT THE HATRED YOU HARBOR IN THE RECESSES OF YOUR HEARTS FOR MY PEOPLE AND I WILL ONE DAY HEAD BOTH OUR WORLDS DOWN THE PATH TO DESTRUCTION! IF IT IS WAR YOU WANT, YOU WILL FIND ATLANTIS READY!

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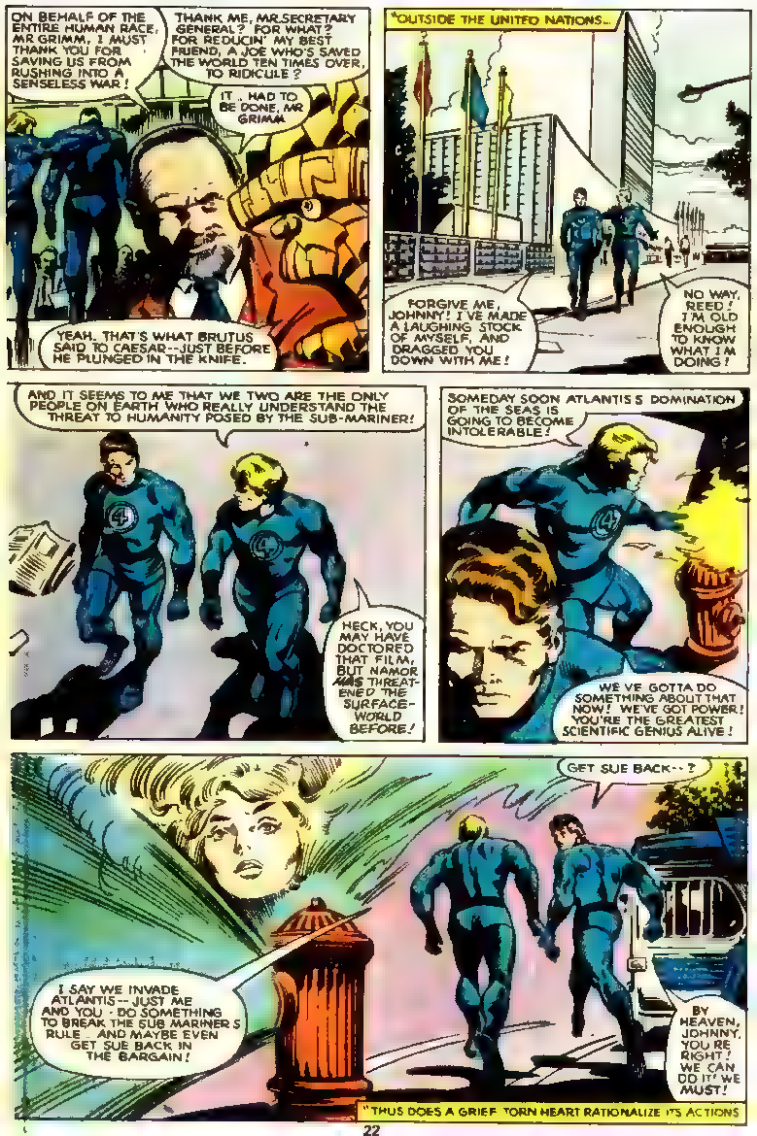
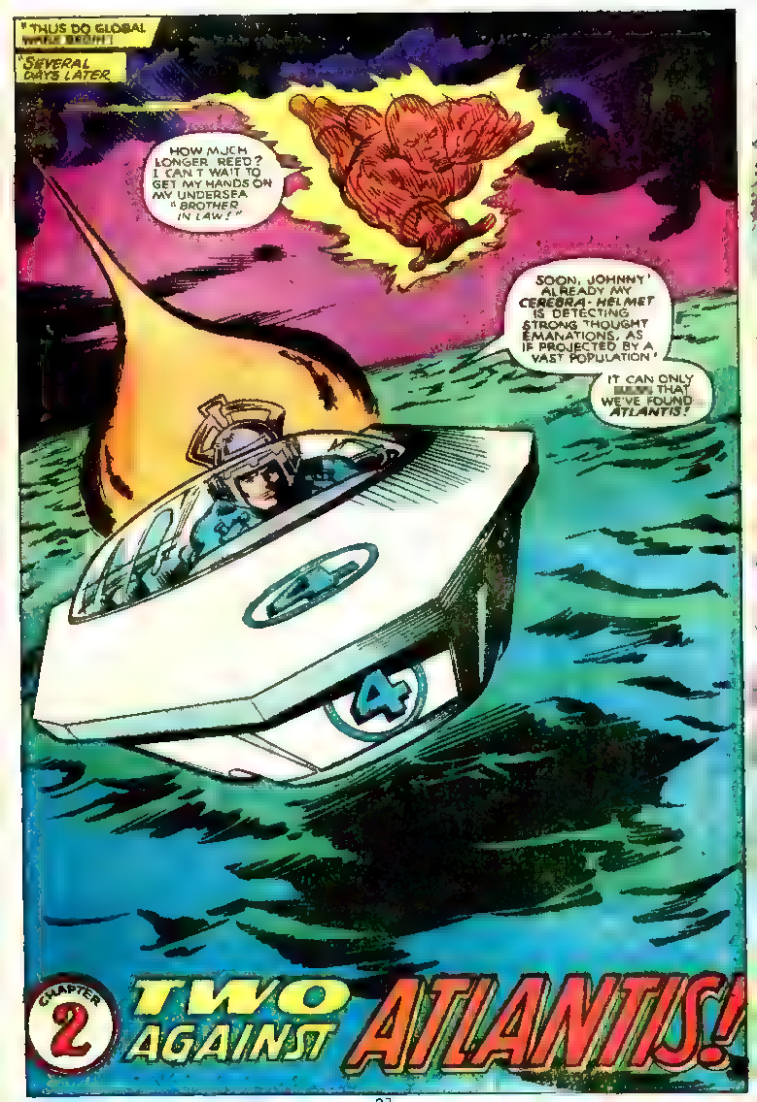
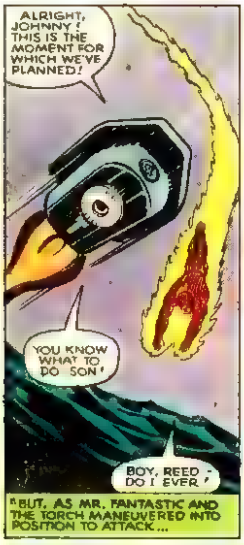
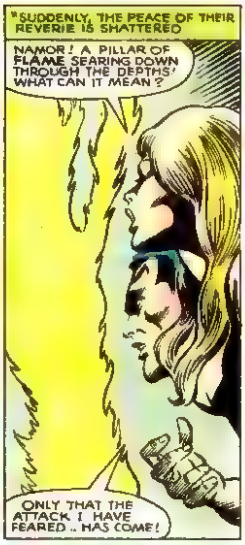

ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE, MR GRIMM, I MUST THANK YOU FOR SAVING US FROM RUSHING INTO A SENSELESS WAR!
THANK ME, MR.SECRETARY GENERAL? FOR WHAT? FOR REDUCIN' MY BEST FRIEND, A JOE WHO'S SAVED THE WORLD TEN TIMES OVER, TO RIDICULE?
IT . HAD TO BE DONE, MR GRIMM.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT BRUTUS SAID TO CAESAR--JUST BEFORE HE PLUNGED IN THE KNIFE.
"OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS..
FORGIVE ME, JOHNNY! I'VE MADE A LAUGHING STOCK OF MYSELF, AND DRAGGED YOU DOWN WITH ME!
NO WAY, REED! I'M OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE TWO ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE ON EARTH WHO REALLY UNDERSTAND THE THREAT TO HUMANITY POSED BY THE SUB-MARINER!
HECK, YOU MAY HAVE DOCTORED THAT FILM, BUT NAMOR WAS THREATENED THE SURFACE-WORLD BEFORE!
SOMEDAY SOON ATLANTIS'S DOMINATION OF THE SEAS IS GOING TO BECOME INTOLERABLE!
WE'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NOW! WE'VE GOT POWER! YOU'RE THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC GENIUS ALIVE!
GET SUE BACK--?
I SAY WE INVADE ATLANTIS--JUST ME AND YOU - DO SOMETHING TO BREAK THE SUB MARINER'S RULE . AND MAYBE EVEN GET SUE BACK IN THE BARGAIN!
BY HEAVEN, JOHNNY, YOU'RE RIGHT! WE CAN DO IT! WE MUST!
"THUS DOES A GRIEF TORN HEART RATIONALIZE ITS ACTIONS

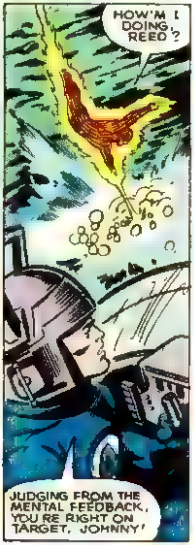

"THUS DO GLOBAL WARS BEGIN!"
"SEVERAL DAYS LATER
HOW MUCH LONGER REED? I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON MY UNDERSEA "BROTHER IN LAW!"
SOON, JOHNNY! ALREADY MY CEREBRA-HELMET IS DETECTING STRONG THOUGHT EMANATIONS, AS IF PROJECTED BY A VAST POPULATION!
IT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT WE'VE FOUND ATLANTIS!
CHAPTER 2
TWO AGAINST ATLANTIS!

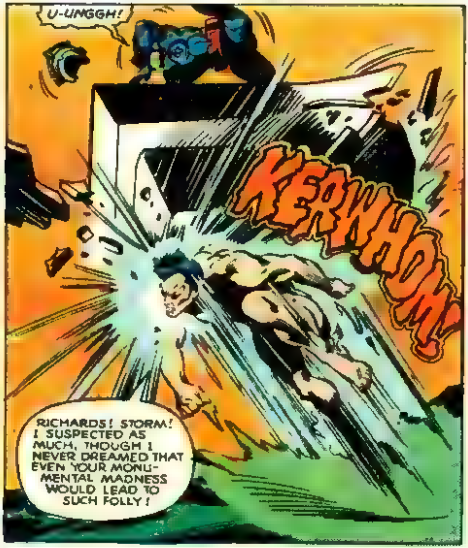

ALRIGHT, JOHNNY! THIS IS THE MOMENT FOR WHICH WE'VE PLANNED!
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO SON!
BOY, REED - DO I EVER!
"BUT, AS MR. FANTASTIC AND THE TORCH MANEUVERED INTO POSITION TO ATTACK...

"... BELOW THE WAVES, THE REGAL SUB-MARINER AND HIS BEAUTEOUS QUEEN SURVEY THEIR UNDERSEA REALM.
SOON, MY DARLING SUSAN WE SHALL HAVE A SON TO LEAVE ALL THIS TO WHEN WE ARE GONE!
OR A DAUGHTER, MY HUSBAND!


"SUDDENLY, THE PEACE OF THEIR REVERIE IS SHATTERED
NAMOR! A PILLAR OF FLAME SEARING DOWN THROUGH THE DEPTHS! WHAT CAN IT MEAN?
ONLY THAT THE ATTACK I HAVE FEARED.. HAS COME!

"FLAME-BURST FOLLOWS FLAME-BURST THE WATER SEETHES AND BOILS. ANCIENT EDIFICES TOPPLE. ORNATE STATUARY BECOMES MELTED SLAG.
WHERE IS NAMOR? WHERE IS OUR KING? WHY DOES HE NOT SAVE US?!
SAVE US! SAVE US!


HOW'M I DOING, REED?
JUDGING FROM THE MENTAL FEEDBACK, YOU'RE RIGHT ON TARGET, JOHNNY!

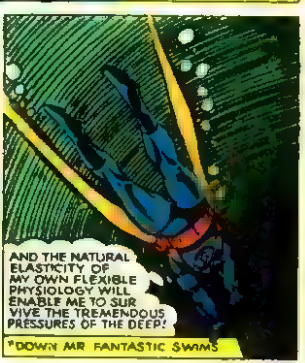

U-UNGGH!
KERWHOM!
RICHARDS! STORM! I SUSPECTED AS MUCH, THOUGH I NEVER DREAMED THAT EVEN YOUR MONU-MENTAL MADNESS WOULD LEAD TO SUCH FOLLY!

KEEP AWAY FROM REED, YOU SUBSEA SLAUGHTERER!
TORCH! IT WAS YOUR FLAME THAT IMPERILLED MY PEOPLE! YOU SHALL ANSWER FOR THAT!

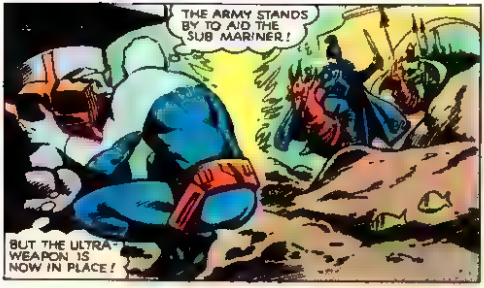
GOOD! JOHNNY'S DRAWN NAMOR'S ATTENTION, ACCORDING TO PLAN!
NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO DO MY PART!
*ELONGATING HIS ARM, REED RICHARDS RETRIEVES A STRANGE BACKPACK FROM THE FOUNDERING FANTASTICAR

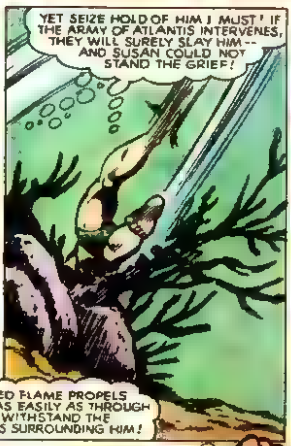
THE ULTRA WEAPON IS INTACT! IT ONLY NEEDS TO BE DELIVERED TO ITS POINT OF DETONATION!

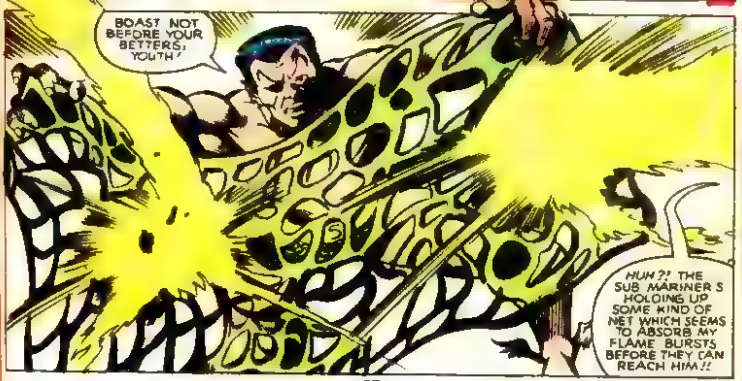
ATLANTIS!
THIS OXYTABLET WILL ENABLE ME TO BREATHE UNDERWATER FOR HOURS!


AND THE NATURAL ELASTICITY OF MY OWN FLEXIBLE PHYSIOLOGY WILL ENABLE ME TO SUR VIVE THE TREMENDOUS PRESSURES OF THE DEEP!
*DOWN MR FANTASTIC SWIMS

--WHILE THE MOST FRANTIC SUB MARINER/HUMAN TORCH BATTLE YET SEEN CONTINUES ABOVE THE WAVES.
YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE ME, NAMOR! DEGLUBBIE
JABBERING JUVENILE!
BE THANKFUL YOU ARE SUSAN'S KIN--
--OR! I WOULD NOT BE AT PAINS TO SPARE YOU NOW!
YEAH! I COUNTED ON THAT, FISH-MAN!
TSSSSSS
I HELD OUT LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE REED THE HEAD-START HE WANTED! BUT NOW I'VE GOT TO SWALLOW MY OXY-TABLET--
-AND CARRY THE BATTLE BELOW THE WAVES!
NOW TO GIVE POINTY-EARS THE SURPRISE OF HIS LIFE!
NEPTUNE'S BEARD! YOU FLAME ON UNDERWATER! WHAT MAGIC IS THIS?!
THE SCIENTIFIC WIZARDRY OF REED RICHARDS, NAMOR, ENABLES ME TO FIGHT YOU ON YOUR OWN TURF--or--SURF!
THIS BODES ILL FOR OUR KING!
IF THE SEA CANNOT DOUSE YOUR BROTHER'S FLAME, QUEEN SUSAN, I MUST ORDER THE ARMY TO AID KING NAMOR!
N NO! YOU MUSTN'T HURT REED OR JOHNNY!
PLEASE WARLORD KRANG, AS YOU LOVE ME, RESTRAIN THE TROOPS! LET NAMOR TRY TO REASON WITH MY BROTHER!
YOUR DESIRE IS MY COMMAND, MILADY!
THANK YOU, KRANG! I--
OAAAA..!
QUEEN SUSAN! SUMMON THE MIDWIVES! HER TIME HAS COME!







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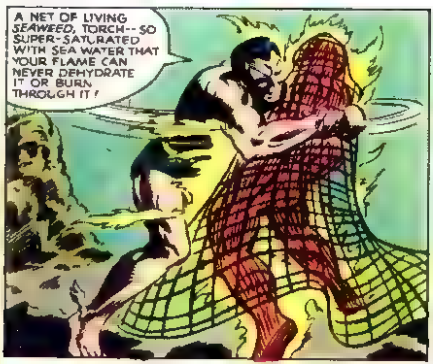
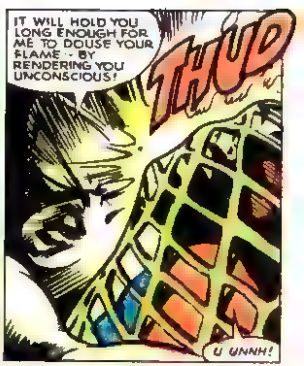
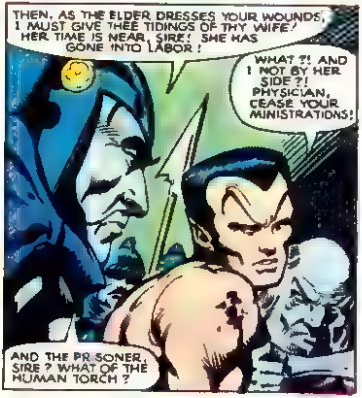
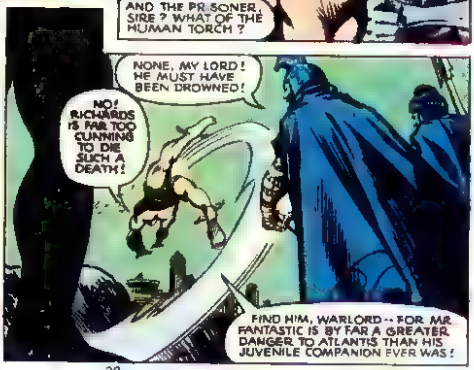

A NET OF LIVING SEAWEED, TORCH--SO SUPER-SATURATED WITH SEA WATER THAT YOUR FLAME CAN NEVER DEHYDRATE IT OR BURN THROUGH IT!


IT WILL HOLD YOU LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DOUSE YOUR FLAME - BY RENDERING YOU UNCONSCIOUS!
THUD
U UNNH!

MY KING, WE FEARED FOR YOUR SAFETY!
I AM BURNT BADLY KRANG, BUT THE YOUTH IS SUBDUED!

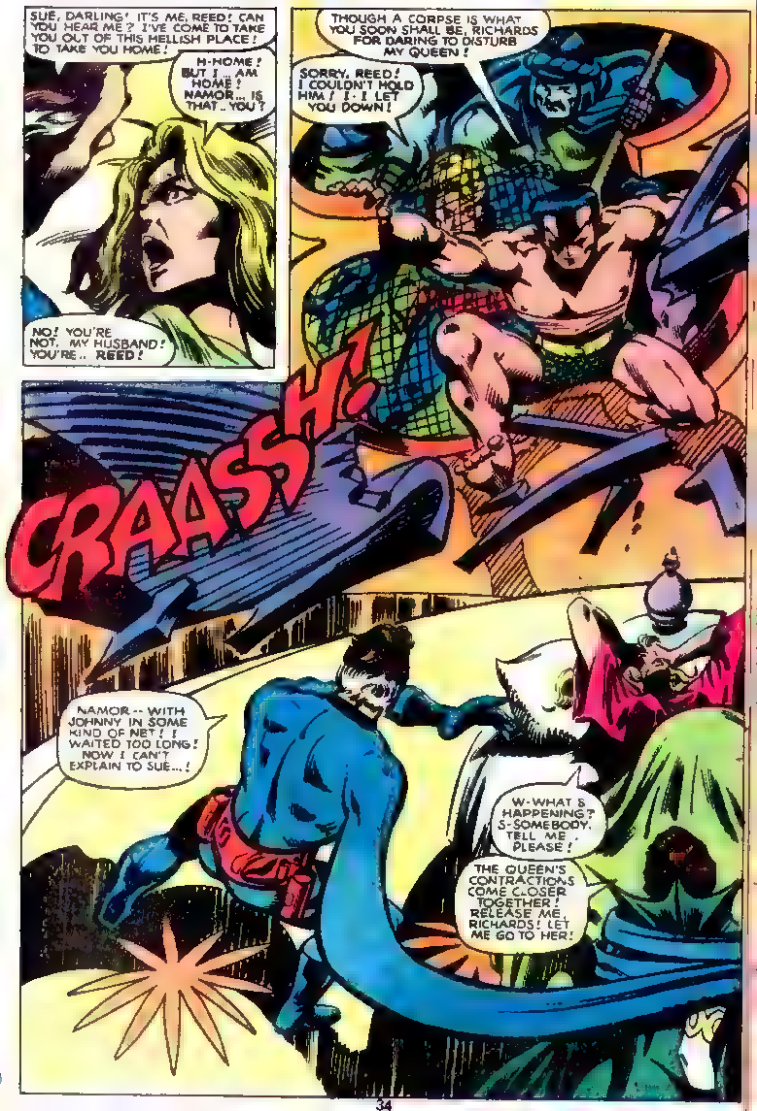

THEN, AS THE ELDER DRESSES YOUR WOUNDS, I MUST GIVE THEE TIDINGS OF THY WIFE! HER TIME IS NEAR, SIRE! SHE HAS GONE INTO LABOR!
WHAT?! AND I NOT BY HER SIDE?! PHYSICIAN, CEASE YOUR MINISTRATIONS!
AND THE PRISONER, SIRE? WHAT OF THE HUMAN TORCH?

LEAVE HIM BOUND AND BRING HIM TO MY ROYAL CHAMBERS!
IT WILL COMFORT MY WIFE TO SEE HIM UNHARMED!
WHAT NEWS OF HIS COMPANION MR.FANTASTIC?


NONE, MY LORD! HE MUST HAVE BEEN DROWNED!
NO! RICHARDS IS FAR TOO CUNNING TO DIE SUCH A DEATH!
FIND HIM, WARLORD -- FOR MR. FANTASTIC IS BY FAR A GREATER DANGER TO ATLANTIS THAN HIS JUVENILE COMPANION EVER WAS!

HARVEST OF SHAME!
CHAPTER 3
MANAGED TO MAKE MY WAY PAST THE GUARDS TO THE ROYAL PALACE UNSEEN! BUT I'VE GOT TO REACH SUE BEFORE THE ULTRA-WEAPON GOES OFF! EXPLAIN TO HER WHY IT'S FOR THE BEST!
THERE SHE IS, SURROUNDED BY HER HANDMAIDENS AND LADY DONNA! SUSAN MY SUSAN -- THE ONLY WOMAN I'VE EVER LOVED, STOLEN FROM ME BY THE SUB-MARINER! HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE LOOKS! HOW I LONG TO HOLD HER IN MY ARMS AGAIN!
N-NAMOR? WHERE IS MY HUSBAND?
HE HAS BEEN SUMMONED, MILADY! HE COMES!
I'VE GOT TO MAKE HER UNDERSTAND THAT SHE NEVER BELONGED HERE AMONG THESE BLUE SKINNED BARBARIANS! HER WORLD -- OUR WORLD -- IS ON THE SURFACE! NOT HERE, WHERE THE SUN-LIGHT NEVER SHINES!

"SEARCHING FOR SOME WAY TO BE ALONE WITH THE WOMAN HE LOVES, REED'S EYES COME TO REST UPON...
THAT SWITCH! IT CONTROLS THIS CHAMBER'S DEFENSES--
--SEALING THE ROOM BEHIND IMPREGNABLE STEEL SHUTTERS IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY!
"BUT, AS MR. FANTASTIC MAKES HIS MOVE
EH? SOMETHING SLITHERING TOWARD THE DEFENSE SWITCH?
RICHARDS! POSEIDON'S SPEAR, THE ENEMY IS AMONG US!
"SWIFT AS THE LADY DORMA IS IN HER DEFENSE OF HER QUEEN, REED RICHARDS IS SWIFTER STILL.
SWASH!
CLICK!
"AND, IN SECONDS, THE CHAMBER WAS SEALED FROM WITHIN.
FTLANG!
RICHARDS, HARM NOT MY QUEEN! MMMFF..!
HARM THE WOMAN I LOVE, DORMA? HARDLY LIKELY! BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY SUE?! SHE'S SO-- SO LARGE!
PLEASE, SURFACE-MAN, DO NOT EXCITE HER! THIS TIME IS MOST CRITICAL FOR HER! IF SHE SHOULD BECOME UPSET...!
CAN SHE--CAN SHE BE PREGNANT? NO! I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT!


SUE, DARLING! IT'S ME, REED! CAN YOU HEAR ME? I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU OUT OF THIS HELLISH PLACE! TO TAKE YOU HOME!
H-HOME! BUT I AM HOME! NAMOR... IS THAT... YOU?
NO! YOU'RE NOT. MY HUSBAND! YOU'RE... REED!
THOUGH A CORPSE IS WHAT YOU SOON SHALL BE, RICHARDS FOR DARING TO DISTURB MY QUEEN!
SORRY, REED! I COULDN'T HOLD HIM! I-I LET YOU DOWN!
CRAASH!
NAMOR -- WITH JOHNNY IN SOME KIND OF NET! I WAITED TOO LONG! NOW I CAN'T EXPLAIN TO SUE...!
W-WHAT'S HAPPENING? S-SOMEBODY, TELL ME, PLEASE!
THE QUEEN'S CONTRACTIONS COME CLOSER TOGETHER! RELEASE ME, RICHARDS! LET ME GO TO HER!

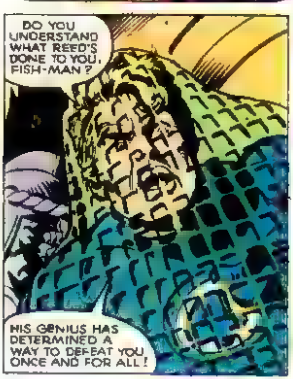
BEG NOT YOUR LEAVE OF RICHARDS, DORMA-- FOR HE IS A DEAD MAN!
N-NAMOR, NO! H-HE .. DIDN'T.. HARM ME!
I DON'T NEED SUE TO PLEAD FOR MY SALVATION, NAMOR! I'M MAN ENOUGH TO FACE YOU ANYTIME!
BESIDES, FISH-MAN, IT'S TOO LATE! YOU'RE THROUGH!

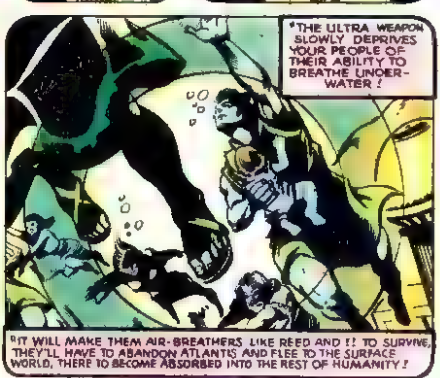
SEE? EVEN NOW YOUR ATLANTEAN ELITE GUARD BEGINS TO GASP, TO CHOKE FOR BREATH!
: GASP!: RICHARDS IS CORRECT, MILORD!
IT GROWS HARDER TO BREATHE!

THAT'S BECAUSE THEIR GILLS ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO EXTRACT THE NEEDED OXYGEN FROM THE WATER, NAMOR!
AND MY HIDDEN ULTRA-WEAPON IS THE CAUSE!

"EVEN AS WE SPEAK IT BEAMS ITS RAYS INTO EVERY CORNER OF YOUR KINGDOM!

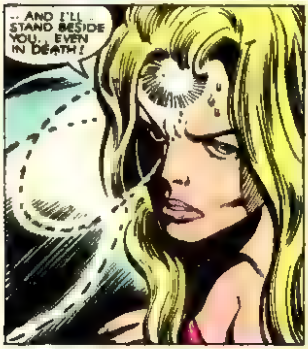
"SOON YOUR FRIGHTENED POPULACE WILL BEGIN TO FEEL ITS EFFECTS!
"THEY WILL BEG FOR YOUR HELP... BUT YOU WILL BE HELPLESS!"

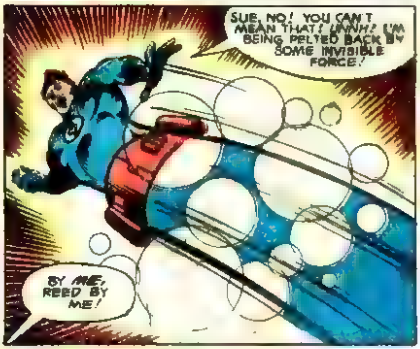

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT REED'S DONE TO YOU, FISH-MAN?
HIS GENIUS HAS DETERMINED A WAY TO DEFEAT YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!

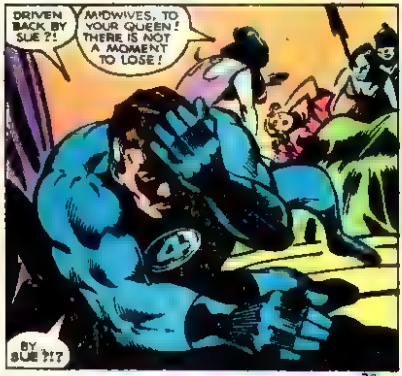

"THE ULTRA WEAPON SLOWLY DEPRIVES YOUR PEOPLE OF THEIR ABILITY TO BREATHE UNDER-WATER!
"IT WILL MAKE THEM AIR-BREATHERS LIKE REED AND I! TO SURVIVE, THEY'LL HAVE TO ABANDON ATLANTIS AND FLEE TO THE SURFACE WORLD, THERE TO BECOME ABSORBED INTO THE REST OF HUMANITY!

"AND YOU, NAMOR, WILL FIND YOUR SELF A KING WITHOUT SUBJECTS!"

YOU CAN SURVIVE IN BOTH ENVIRONMENTS, NAMOR -- BUT WITHOUT A KINGDOM, YOUR DAYS OF POWER ARE OVER!
YOU'RE MAD, RICHARDS! YOU WOULD JEOPARDIZE A RACE.. FOR THE LOVE OF ONE WOMAN!
I AM THAT WOMAN, MY BELOVED NAMOR-


-- AND I'LL STAND BESIDE YOU, EVEN IN DEATH!


SUE, NO! YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT! UNNH! I'M BEING PELTED BACK BY SOME INVISIBLE FORCE!
BY ME, REED BY ME!


DRIVEN BACK BY SUE?!
MIDWIVES, TO YOUR QUEEN! THERE IS NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!
BY SUE?!?

GUARDS! ORDER OUT EVERY GARRISON! FIND THE ULTRA-WEAPON!
WE OBEY, LORD NAMOR -- THOUGH IT GROWS SO DIFF CULT TO EVEN MOVE!

YOUR ATLANTEANS ARE ALREADY TOO WEAK TO FIND THE ULTRA-WEAPON IN TIME, NAMOR! GIVE ME SUE, AND I'LL SHUT IT DOWN!

DO NOT ACCEDE, MY LORD!

LET ME... FIND... THIS HIDEOUS WEAPON THAT WOULD MAKE US OUTCASTS FROM OUR OWN LAND!

NO, WARLORD! THOUGH GREAT HONORS WILL BE HEAPED UPON YOU FOR YOUR OFFER OF SACRIFICE THE TASK MUST BE MINE! I- THE SUB MARINER-- WILL SEEK OUT RICHARDS' INFERNAL DEVICE!

YOU THINK YOURSELF SO WISE, SO CUNNING, RICHARDS! AYE, 'TIS TRUE THIS GAMBIT OF YOURS WILL RETURN SUSAN TO HER FORMER, AIR BREATHING STATE-- BUT THE VERY SHOCK WILL KILL SUSAN AND HER AS YET UNBORN CHILD!

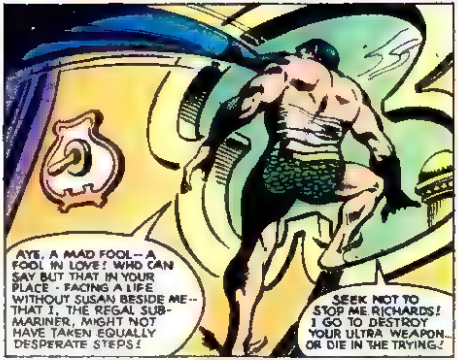
IS THIS YOUR GREAT LOVE, SURFACE-MAN-- TO MURDER A WOMAN WHO WANTS YOU NOT??

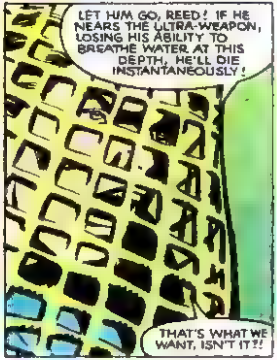
MURDER, SUE?

I APPEARED AT THE BAXTER BUILDING TO INVITE YOU AND JOHNNY STORM TO BE PRESENT WHEN ALL ATLANTIS CELEBRATED THE BIRTH OF MY HEIR! MY CHILD, RICHARDS-- AND SUSAN'S!

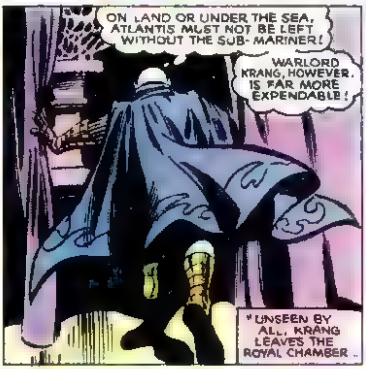
THEN YOU DID COME IN PEACE AND WE ATTACKED YOU FOR IT?! MY GOD, WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN!

Ohhhhh!

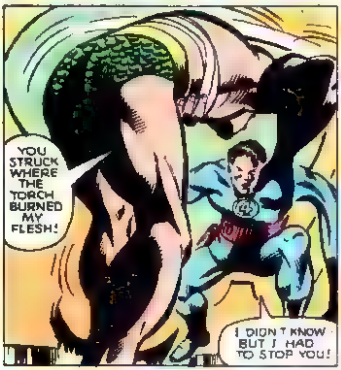

AYE, A MAD FOOL—A FOOL IN LOVE! WHO CAN SAY BUT THAT IN YOUR PLACE - FACING A LIFE WITHOUT SUSAN BESIDE ME—THAT I, THE REGAL SUB-MARINER, MIGHT NOT HAVE TAKEN EQUALLY DESPERATE STEPS!
SEEK NOT TO STOP ME RICHARDS! I GO TO DESTROY YOUR ULTRA WEAPON.. OR DIE IN THE TRYING!

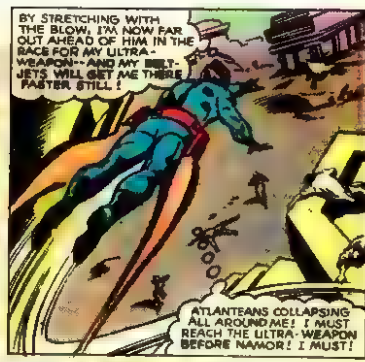

LET HIM GO, REED! IF HE NEARS THE ULTRA-WEAPON, LOSING HIS ABILITY TO BREATHE WATER AT THIS DEPTH, HE'LL DIE INSTANTANEOUSLY!
THAT'S WHAT WE WANT, ISN'T IT?!

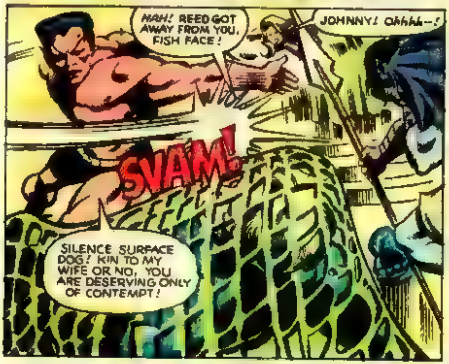
NO!
REMOVE YOUR HAND FROM MY PERSON, RICHARDS! NOW!

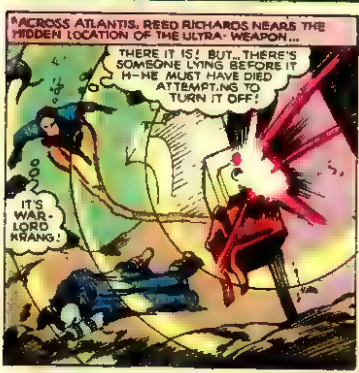

ON LAND OR UNDER THE SEA, ATLANTIS MUST NOT BE LEFT WITHOUT THE SUB-MARINER!
WARLORD KRANG, HOWEVER, IS FAR MORE EXPENDABLE!
*UNSEEN BY ALL, KRANG LEAVES THE ROYAL CHAMBER

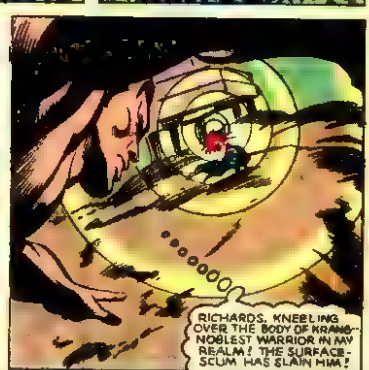
I-I'M SORRY, NAMOR BUT I NOW KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE!
THOK!
NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT!


YOU STRUCK WHERE THE TORCH BURNED MY FLESH!
I DIDN'T KNOW BUT I HAD TO STOP YOU!









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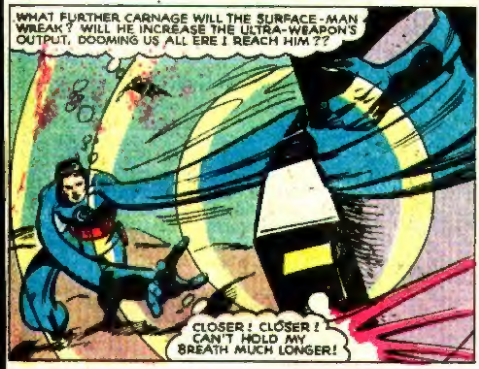
T-THE ULTRA-WEAPON IS CANCELLING OUT THE OXYTABLET I TOOK EARLIER! WITHOUT IT, I CAN'T BREATHE UNDER-WATER! I-I'VE ONLY SECONDS LEFT...
...TO DO FOR ATLANTIS WHAT I WAS UNABLE TO DO FOR KRANG!

I MUST SWIM FASTER! FASTER!
MY PEOPLE FALL ALL AROUND ME, AND RICHARDS DRAWS EVER CLOSER TO HIS INFERNAL MACHINE!

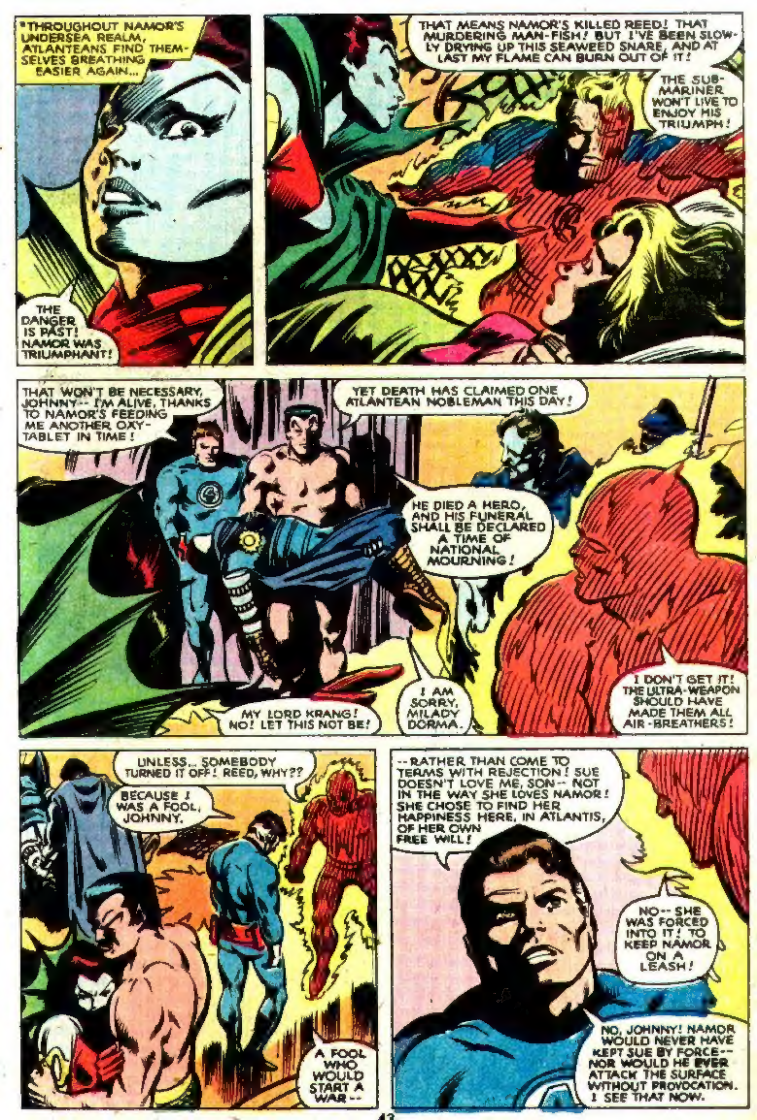

WHAT FURTHER CARNAGE WILL THE SURFACE-MAN WREAK? WILL HE INCREASE THE ULTRA-WEAPON'S OUTPUT, DOOMING US ALL ERE I REACH HIM??
CLOSER! CLOSER! CAN'T HOLD MY BREATH MUCH LONGER!

THERE! I'VE REACHED THE ULTRA-WEAPON! MUST FIND THE MAIN SWITCH--
--BEFORE I DROWN!
RICHARDS! STAND AWAY FROM YON KILLING DEVICE!

I HAVE WARNED YOU, SURFACE-SLAUGHTERER! NOW NAMOR WILL EXACT HIS REVENGE!
I-I DARE NOT OPEN MY MOUTH TO ANSWER HIM!
DARE NOT TELL HIM THE DANGER TO ATLANTIS IS PAST--

--THAT I CAME TO MY SENSES-- SHUT DOWN THE ULTRA-WEAPON IN TIME!
B-BUT IT'S ALL OVER FOR ME! I-I'M PAST HELP... NOW!

EH? WHAT TRICK IS THIS? RICHARDS COLLAPSES IN MY ARMS!
AND HIS RAY! I STAND NEAR IT, YET AM UNAFFECTED!
SMASH!
THERE IS A MYSTERY HERE FOR NAMOR TO FATHOM!


*THROUGHOUT NAMOR'S UNDERSEA REALM, ATLANTEANS FIND THEMSELVES BREATHING EASIER AGAIN...
THE DANGER IS PAST! NAMOR WAS TRIUMPHANT!
THAT MEANS NAMOR'S KILLED REED! THAT MURDERING MAN-FISH! BUT I'VE BEEN SLOWLY DRYING UP THIS SEAWEED SNARE, AND AT LAST MY FLAME CAN BURN OUT OF IT!
THE SUB-MARINER WON'T LIVE TO ENJOY HIS TRIUMPH!
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, JOHNNY-- I'M ALIVE, THANKS TO NAMOR'S FEEDING ME ANOTHER OXY-TABLET IN TIME!
YET DEATH HAS CLAIMED ONE ATLANTEAN NOBLEMAN THIS DAY!
HE DIED A HERO, AND HIS FUNERAL SHALL BE DECLARED A TIME OF NATIONAL MOURNING!
MY LORD KRANG! NO! LET THIS NOT BE!
I AM SORRY, MILADY DORMA.
I DON'T GET IT! THE ULTRA-WEAPON SHOULD HAVE MADE THEM ALL AIR-BREATHERS!
UNLESS... SOMEBODY TURNED IT OFF! REED, WHY??
BECAUSE I WAS A FOOL, JOHNNY.
A FOOL WHO WOULD START A WAR --
--RATHER THAN COME TO TERMS WITH REJECTION! SUE DOESN'T LOVE ME, SON -- NOT IN THE WAY SHE LOVES NAMOR! SHE CHOSE TO FIND HER HAPPINESS HERE, IN ATLANTIS, OF HER OWN FREE WILL!
NO -- SHE WAS FORCED INTO IT! TO KEEP NAMOR ON A LEASH!
NO, JOHNNY! NAMOR WOULD NEVER HAVE KEPT SUE BY FORCE -- NOR WOULD HE EVER ATTACK THE SURFACE WITHOUT PROVOCATION. I SEE THAT NOW.

THEN THEY'VE GOT YOU AS BRAINWASHED AS SIS IS! WELL, I'M NOT BUYING IT! IT - IT ISN'T NATURAL FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE BENEATH THE SEA! NOT ATLANTEANS, AND ESPECIALLY NOT JOHNNY STORM'S SISTER!

MAYBE I CAN'T TAKE HER OUT OF HERE ALONE NOW THAT YOU'VE ABANDONED ME, REED. BUT MARK MY WORDS!
ONE DAY THE HUMAN TORCH WILL BE BACK--
--TO RAIN FIRE ON ATLANTIS!

NOT ALL THE FIRE IN HELL ITSELF CAN BURN THE GRIEF FROM MY HEART!
LADY DORMA, I--
WHAT COMFORT WILL YOU OFFER HER, RICHARDS? YOU, WHOSE RAGE CAUSED HER BELOVED'S DEATH?

YOU CAME AS AN ENEMY, INTENT ON DESTROYING THAT WHICH YOU COULD NOT UNDERSTAND. YET, IT WAS ALSO YOUR ACTIONS WHICH SAVED ATLANTIS--
-- THOUGH IT HAS COST YOU FOREVER ANY HOPE OF EVER REGAINING THE WOMAN YOU LOVE. WHY, RICHARDS?

BECAUSE LONG AGO, I SWORE TO COMBAT EVIL WHEREVER IT SHOULD TAKE ROOT, NAMOR-- EVEN IN THE DEPTHS OF MY OWN HEART!
THEN YOU HAVE PURGED YOUR OWN DEMONS, SURFACE-DWELLER. FEW MEN ARE E'ER SO FORTUNATE.
N-NAMOR, BELOVED! COME! COME AND SEE...

OUR SON!

THEIR SON... SUE'S AND NAMOR'S! TOGETHER, THEY TWO SHARE A MOMENT FOR WHICH I'VE LONGED SINCE THE DAY I FIRST LAID EYES ON SUSAN STORM!

AND NOW THAT MOMENT, FOR ME, WILL NEVER COME!

BELOVED SUSAN! ON THIS DAY SHALL ALL ATLANTIS REJOICE!

AND ALL THE EARTH AS WELL, NAMOR! PROMISE ME!

I'LL PROMISE YOU THAT, SUE! I SWEAR THAT, FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SEE TO IT THAT THERE'S PEACE BETWEEN THE SURFACE-WORLD AND ATLANTIS!

THUS WERE THE FATES OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE SUB-MARINER, ON A WORLD A WHISPER AWAY FROM THE ONE YOU KNOW...

BUT WHETHER THE TORCH CARRIED OUT HIS THREAT OR REED RICHARDS HIS PROMISE AS NAMOR AND SUE'S SON GREW TO MANHOOD BENEATH THE WAVES IS ANOTHER STORY... FOR ANOTHER TIME.

THE END.